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Western Europe: Without providing any details, Dutch sources have told US Embassy officials that Britain, West Germany, and the Netherlands have achieved a compromise on the issue that has stalled progress on the gas centrifuge agreement since last June--whether the UK would be allowed to use the enriched uranium produced by the centrifuge in its weapons programs. The sources believe that the three countries will move rapidly toward signing the agreement at ministerial-level meetings in mid-November. The agreement would launch one of the most significant technological projects thus far undertaken by Britain and other European countries. The gas centrifuge project could contribute to a further weakening of EURATOM, however, because it would at least initially be outside the framework of that organization.

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